



REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to place the application in a more traditional format.

5. (Amended) A composition comprising a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 2.

6. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 2.

7. (Amended) An antibody directed against a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 2.

8. (Amended) A method for obtaining a substrate of a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 2, which comprises the steps of:

- contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract; and
- assaying the resulting solution for a decrease in said molecule or extract, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said substrate.

9. (Amended) A method for obtaining an inhibitor of a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 2, which comprises the steps of:

contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract in the presence of a substrate selected known NEP substrates, preferably

Tyrosyl-[3,5-³H1)(D-Ala₂)-Leu₅-enkephalin and bradykinin; and

-- assaying the resulting solution for an increase in said substrate, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said inhibitor.

11. (Amended) The use of a known NEP inhibitor or an inhibitor as defined in claim 10 to control the enzymatic activity of a metallopeptidase as defined above.

13. (Amended) The use of a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 2 to manage disease relating to the physiological status of the cardiovascular system, the central nervous system, the spleen, the liver, the kidney, the male reproductive system or the maturation of spermatozoa.

19. (Amended) A composition comprising a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 16.

20. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 16.



21. (Amended) An antibody directed against a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 16

22. (Amended) A method for obtaining a substrate of a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 18, which comprises the steps of:

- contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract; and
- assaying the resulting solution for a decrease in said molecule or extract, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said substrate.

23. (Amended) A method for obtaining an inhibitor of a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 16, which comprises the steps of:

- contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract in the presence of a substrate selected from known NEP substrates or a protein. polypeptide or part thereof produced by the method of claim 15, preferably Tyrosyl-[3,5-³H1](D-Ala₂)-Leu₅-enkephalin and bradykin in; and
- assaying the resulting solution for an increase in said substrate, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said inhibitor.

25. (Amended) The use of a known NEP inhibitor or an inhibitor as defined in claim 24 to control the enzymatic activity of a metallopeptidase as

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defined above claim 16.

27. (Amended) The use of a metallopeptidase as defined in claim 16 to manage disease relating to the physiological status of the cardiovascular system, the central nervous system, the spleen, the liver, the kidney, the male reproductive system or the maturation of spermatozoa.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

5. (Amended) A composition comprising a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2.

6. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2.

7. (Amended) An antibody directed against a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2.

8. (Amended) A method for obtaining a substrate of a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2, which comprises the steps of:

-- contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract; and
-- assaying the resulting solution for a decrease in said molecule or extract, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said substrate.

9. (Amended) A method for obtaining an inhibitor of a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2, which comprises



the steps of:

contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract in the presence of a substrate selected known NEP substrates, preferably

Tyrosyl-[3,5-³H1](D-Ala₂)-Leu₅-enkephalin and bradykinin; and

-- assaying the resulting solution for an increase in said substrate, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said inhibitor.

11. (Amended) The use of a known NEP inhibitor or an inhibitor as defined in claim 10 to control the enzymatic activity of a metallopeptidase as defined [in any one of claims 2-4] above.

13. (Amended) The use of a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2 to manage disease relating to the physiological status of the cardiovascular system, the central nervous system, the spleen, the liver, the kidney, the male reproductive system or the maturation of spermatozoa.

19. (Amended) A composition comprising a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 16-18] claim 16.

20. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 16-18] claim 16.



21. (Amended) An antibody directed against a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 16-18] claim 16

22. (Amended) A method for obtaining a substrate of a metallopeptidase as defined in [anyone of claims 16-18] claim 18, which comprises the steps of:

- contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract; and
- assaying the resulting solution for a decrease in said molecule or extract, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said substrate.

23. (Amended) A method for obtaining an inhibitor of a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one of claims 16-18] claim 16, which comprises the steps of:

- contacting said metallopeptidase with a molecule or extract in the presence of a substrate selected from known NEP substrates or a protein. polypeptide or part thereof produced by the method of claim 15, preferably Tyrosyl-[3,5-³H1](D-Ala₂)-Leu₅-enkephalin and bradykin in; and
- assaying the resulting solution for an increase in said substrate, when compared with the same but in absence of said metallopeptidase, as an indication of the presence of said inhibitor.



25. (Amended) The use of a known NEP inhibitor or an inhibitor as defined in claim 24 to control the enzymatic activity of a metallopeptidase as defined above [in any one of claims 16-18] claim 16.

27. (Amended) The use of a metallopeptidase as defined in [any one claims 16-18] claim 16 to manage disease relating to the physiological status of the cardiovascular system, the central nervous system, the spleen, the liver, the kidney, the male reproductive system or the maturation of spermatozoa.

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